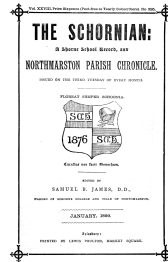


The Rev Samuel James and Schorne College

Rev Samuel James was probably the most influential man in Victorian North Marston and was the vicar here from 1869 until 1909.



Soon after arriving in the village with his young family he began to publish a parish magazine that was to continue to be published for thirty-four years. The “Parish Chronicle” section of the magazine provides us with a unique insight into the village at a time of great change

In 1876, Rev Samuel opened a private school called Schorne College built on land he'd acquired immediately next to the churchyard. It became very successful.



The College was exclusively for the sons of clergymen and senior military officers: the sons of tradesmen, however wealthy, were not accepted. The College quickly expanded as Rev James bought neighbouring properties, such as The Matronage (pictured). The College seems to have been modelled on public schools such as Rugby. Although not without its critics, the College brought major employment to the village.

The College had a gymnasium and swimming pool. The curriculum placed emphasis on sporting as well as academic achievement. In 1889, Schorne College football team reached the second round of the FA Cup competition!



Rev James was found drowned in the Vicarage pond in August 1909: the College closed the following year. The buildings were demolished by local builder Ted Dudley. This picture shows how close they were to the church.